

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release Friday, September 7, 2007

BROOKS OPENS NEW MEERKAT EXHIBIT

Donors Acknowledged for Their Support

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** today joined Seneca Park Zoo officials to unveil a new exhibit featuring meerkats. The new exhibit, located in the Zoo's main building, will eventually be home to six meerkats.

"This is an exciting day for our entire community" said **Brooks**. "Our new exhibit will enhance the unique experience for patrons of the Seneca Park Zoo, and will offer our children another opportunity to learn about animal conservation – right here in our community. My thanks to ESL and News 10 NBC for their generous support, and for helping to make this day possible."

The Meerkat Exhibit will continue to diversify our zoo and will serve as an educational tool for all visitors. The exhibit currently houses three female meerkats. Three additional male meerkats are slated to join them in the near future.

"The Seneca Park Zoo Society is excited to have meerkats added to our diverse collection of species," said Rachel Baker August, Seneca Park Zoo Society Executive Director. "Meerkats are energetic desert animals with unique mannerisms that are sure to delight both parents and children alike."

About the Meerkat Exhibit

The three female meerkats came to the Zoo from Waco, Texas. Their ages are 4, 5 and 6. Three male meerkats will be joining the Meerkat Exhibit from the National Zoo in the future. At today's news conference, ESL announced a children's naming contest of the meerkats that will be open to the community. Media sponsor News 10 NBC will have a webcam of the Meerkat Exhibit that can be accessed on their website, www.whec.com.

###

Media Inquiries, contact:

Department of Communications at 753-1080